

Abstract**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED ON-LINE PRINTING SERVICE**

There is disclosed an on-line print network comprising a print merchant
5 computer, and a plurality of print service providers. Within each print service
provider, orders are satisfied efficiently by optimizing throughput of print jobs
within the print service provider, whilst at the same time, minimizing media
wastage and achieving high printer device utilization, under control of a print
manager computer interfacing with the print merchant computer on the one hand,
10 and with the plurality of printer devices on the other hand.

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